

Remarks

This response addresses the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 C.F.R. 1.121) mailed on December 27, 2004.

The Examiner deemed the response filed on November 4, 2004 as non-compliant because amended claims 1 and 9 were identified as "Amended", instead of "Currently Amended". In the attached claim amendments, Claims 1 and 9 are now identified as "Currently Amended". Accordingly, the response is now believed to be compliant with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 and in acceptable form for further examination.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

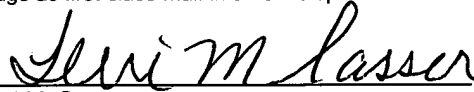
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper or thing referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 1-5-05


Terri M. Sasser